

Monday, April 13, 2009

# THE METER

*the Tennessee State University community since 1950*

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## Race for Space

*As SEC Week begins, students spread campaign materials throughout the campus.  
Story, candidates and photo spreads inside.*



# Hale has new sheriff in charge

By Jeremy Perry  
Contributing Reporter

Originally housing for only upper class women, the Harriet Hodgkins Hale Hall residence center has seen its share of changes over the years.

However, the 2008-2009 school year saw two major changes, when new director Carl Darnell began his tenure as the dorm lost its honors designation.

Named after Harriet Hodgkins Hale, the wife of TSU's Hale Hall was erected in 1967 with intentions to house TSU students who were bound for excellence.

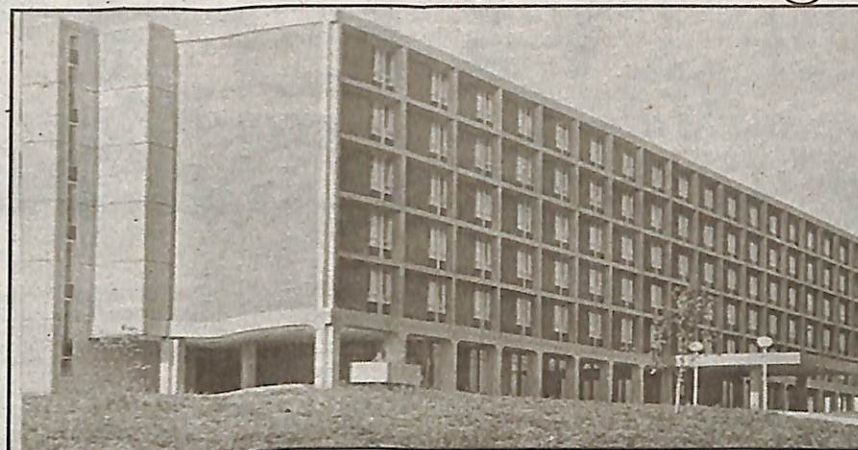
Darnell, a 2006 TSU graduate, has been given the responsibility of managing the six-floor hall, which was an honors facility for women and later a co-educational honors dorm.

The center currently houses 320 students of both sexes. Men have been assigned rooms on the first four floors; women occupying the upper two.

The enormous task of managing all these students, and the unique risks and opportunities a co-educational facility presents, may be the very reason many students feel Darnell's tactics are extreme.

"I think he's too serious, because it's his first real job in an environment like this," said Vivian N. Foxx, a sophomore speech communication and theatre major from Cordova, Tenn. "He has peers above him and he doesn't want to mess up in their eyes."

Last semester, a resident of Hale Hall was choked. In addition, two males that live in Boyd were robbed at gun point for \$600 and two laptops at the opening of this semester.



Harriett Hodgkins Hale Hall Residence Center

Because of the criminal activity, Darnell has cracked down on his resident assistants as well.

"He wants (us) to set a good example by following all the rules, so (we) can enforce all the rules," said Jasmine Locklin, resident assistant and junior biology major from Atlanta. "We are supposed to check all IDs after 8 o'clock, even if its residents that we know live here."

"He wants us to have a good relationship with our residents, so that we can help in any way," Locklin continued.

Hale Hall has only six resident assistants, one director and a vacant assistant director position, which creates a student to staff ratio of 53-to-1.

"With Hale being a former honors dorm, (Darnell) has rules that he would not normally set in order to prevent the environment of other dorms from coming to Hale," said Darius R. Montgomery, a TSU alumnus and former resident of Hale Hall.

With constant entering and exiting of the dorm, Darnell says he must be on alert at all times for all actions that put his students in harm's way.

"We have the same rules as all the other resident halls, but here at Hale we actually enforce them," Darnell said. "I'm not going to play with 320 lives."

In defense of being termed "too serious," Darnell admitted each student was important to him and their individual lives were of significance.

"There is no way you can take anybody's life too seriously," Darnell said. "I would jump in front of a bullet for one of my students; and, at the same time, if I can save you by saying something or doing something then I will do it, at all times."

The front cover features a photo of students posting campaign materials for their respective SGA candidates. Some had been waiting at their respective posts for hours.

PHOTO BY  
MARSHALL A. LATIMORE

## events calendar

### monday, april 13

#### Student Elections

Avon Williams Campus • 4-8 p.m.

#### Phi Beta Sigma Noon-time Activities

FPCC Courtyard • noon-2 p.m.

### tuesday, april 14

#### Student Elections

FPCC Foyer • 10-6 p.m.

#### Sigma Splash Pool Party

Gentry Center • 5 p.m.

#### Announcement of Winners

FPCC Courtyard • 8 p.m.

### wednesday, april 15

#### Phi Beta Sigma Fish Fry

FPCC Courtyard • 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

### thursday, april 16

#### Phi Beta Sigma Women's Appreciation

Women's Building (Invite Only) • 7 p.m.

## THE METER

The Measure of Student  
Opinion and Sentiment

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### MISSION STATEMENT

The Meter's mission is to accurately and responsibly report the "highlights and lowlights" of Tennessee State University and its community so that we may foster positive results while reflecting the university's multicultural student body.

### SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Meter invites submission by all members of the Tennessee State University community. Timelines and clarity are factors in selecting material for publication. Materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

a.) All contributions must be typed and sent by e-mail.

b.) Opinions and letters should not exceed 400 words.

c.) The Meter reserves the right to reject letters, articles or ads without explanation and to edit others as necessary.

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## weather

**M** HI: 68°F  
LO: 50°F

**T** HI: 61°F  
LO: 48°F

**W** HI: 67°F  
LO: 44°F

**T** HI: 70°F  
LO: 48°F

**F** HI: 74°F  
LO: 51°F

Source: Weather.com



# SEC kicks off 'star'-powered week

By Jennifer E. Butler  
News Editor

The Student Election Commission began its annual week of festivities with the Election Nomination Convention on Sunday, April 5.

Several activities including the SGA Rally held Tuesday, April 7 in Gentry Center as well as the Mr. and Miss TSU Pageant on Wednesday, April 8, were held up until Thursday when active campaigning ended.

Students were allowed to keep their campaign materials posted all over campus through early voting today at the Avon Williams campus from 4-8 p.m. and main campus voting on Tuesday, April 14, beginning at 10 a.m.

The polls officially close at 6 p.m. with the announcement of the winners scheduled for 8 p.m. in the FPCC courtyard.

The week, themed "Dancing with the Stars," opened with the nomination convention, during which all the candidates formally accepted the bids

See "Candidates" on page 9



PHOTO BY MARSHALL A. LATIMORE

Verlisa Westbrook, a member of the Student Election Commission, presides over Sunday's Nomination Convention, which officially kicked off SEC's annual week of festivities.

## LGBT students fear coming out on campus

By Eva Pitts  
Assistant Opinions Editor

Last semester a student named Sam was forced to leave TSU after being taunted and harassed an entire year for being gay.

Sam, who chose to keep his last name confidential, entered TSU in fall 2007 from Washington D.C. and lived in Watson Hall.

Sam's efforts to live a healthy homosexual life failed when peers in his residence hall locked him inside his dorm room shouting negative, not so humorous, remarks.

"They shoved pennies and (other) coins in the locks so I couldn't get

out of the door," Sam recounted. "And they taunted me by calling me 'fag' and snickering."

Sam, began this school year as a sophomore business administration major at the General Nashville Association of Realtors, but left the university after a year of facing prejudice.

"They play-pranked my room because they were threatened by my way of life," Sam said about his experiences in Watson. "It makes them feel like we (homosexuals) are trying to make them accept who we are, but I'm tired of hiding, they are going to have to accept me."

Unfortunately, Sam is not the only homosexual student who has faced

prejudice or trials on campus. Unlike Sam, some students have attempted to hide their sexualities.

As opposed to embracing what Sam considers a lifestyle, these students keep their sexual preferences to themselves in pursuit of interests they feel would be hindered otherwise.

The stereotypes associated with being homosexual disable many gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender students from accomplishing goals and aspirations during their undergraduate and graduate years.

"Coming out on campus will restrict me from accomplishing a lot of goals I want to in undergraduate," said Xavier, an anonymous English major from

Atlanta. "People will never look past the fact that I am a healthy bisexual male."

Xavier also said he believes athletes in contact sports or fraternity and sorority members feel discomfort toward homosexuals and will do what is necessary to make them quit.

James Alderman, a senior electrical engineering major from St. Petersburg, Fla., and member of the Alpha Theta chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., denied such activity exists in his fraternity.

"Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. does not discriminate on race or sexual preference," Alderman said. "But from my understanding, most fraternities are

See "Candidates" on page 9



# What We Think

## The Meter endorses Williams, Glover, Bland & Spain

As Student Election Commission Week 2009 comes to a close, *The Meter* now wishes to release the names of candidates we endorse for the 2009-2010 academic school year.

Based on these interviews, *The Meter* as a whole has chose to endorse Jennifer C. Williams as president, Danny D. Glover for vice president, James H. Bland III for Mr. TSU and Dezirae Spain for Miss TSU.

These decisions were collectively decided on based on the interviews solely. Each candidate was critiqued on the pros and cons of their individual interviews.

The candidates were each sheduled a specific time to arrive at their interview and a series of questions followed. Most questions were general but some tailored to individual positions, past experiences and current associations.

It is important to note that although *The Meter* endorsed only four candidates, as a whole we were pleased with the overall outcome of the interviews.

For SGA presidency, we chose Williams because of her sincerity. Williams named several organizations she was involved in but vowed to not only have time for SGA, but to make time to serve each one judiciously.

Such dedication and adherence to time management are qualities that will prove beneficial in a SGA president, who will have to serve in TSU President Melvin N. Johnson's cabinet and also attend a variety of events in and out of the city all while maintaining their duties as a student first.

Williams also spoke of wanting to see that "old TSU spirit" revived. Her campaign platform of being a super woman by "saving TSU by promoting excellence" proved to outshine her opponent Justin J. Crawford.

Crawford said he plans to become the "glue" for the university, wanting to unite all organizations and bring about TSU unity; however, his interview did not glue us to him.

Crawford mentioned working with

freshmen males in Watson, and being accountable which is commendable.

He also highlighted the importance for developing networking skills for students, making a charismatic pitch for students to see the networks they create directly affect their long term net worths.

Although Crawford shared many good points, Williams' ability to think quickly, genuine compassion and thorough knowledge of the position won her our endorsement.

Williams' year of shadowing current SGA President Patrick Walker-Reese and SGA Vice President Ashley D. Floyd as their Chief of Staff also indicated to us that Williams is very knowledgeable of the demands such a position will hold.

Furthermore, Crawford's claim to have served as chairman of the SGA's Constitution committee was refuted by Floyd, who explained that she and other current officials had worked directly with the consitution and a proposed set of changes that would restructure SGA in the fall.

Floyd said in a comment to Crawford's interview video, "(Crawford), you know that you did not chair the constitution and that it was in fact myself, (Walker-Reese), (Glover), Warren Burke, (Williams), and Blake Nathan that worked on the structuring proposals.

"There is not even a Constitution Committee," Floyd continued. "I take personal (offense to that) since I specifically worked for two months on it."

Crawford did provide a rebuttal to Floyd's claims; however, he not only agreed with Floyd but also did not refute her claim that he could have possibly embellished the work he did not do with the consitution.

Instead, he argued that his role as a voting member had more than exceeded his responsibilities as a SGA representative. These are all details the student body should take into consideration when selecting the next president.

Danny D. Glover is running

unopposed for SGA Vice President and it is understandable why. His love for TSU is radiant and evident.

In the interview, Glover impressed us with his ability to state what he wanted for the future and how he planned to come about those changes.

It was clear that Glover had worked closely with the proposed restructuring of SGA and is capable of helping to guide those changes with a capable president at the helm.

There is not much to say about Glover, as his strong interview spoke for itself. We feel he is more than ready to work for the students here at TSU.

For Mr. TSU we chose to endorse James H. Bland III because of his versatility. He also came off as a man of distinction that would work for the common man.

Bland represents students that may not have been in the spotlight during their previous college years, but is ready to shine.

His articulation and on-the-spot thinking impressed us and moreover won him over with the group. Also, the fact that Bland was not the most well know on campus but still outshined others proves he is ready for the challenge.

His counterparts Jonathan Miller and Kwesi Gordon also had great answers to some difficult questions.

Miller admitted to using the past year to work on himself and prepare for his second quest for the crown. Both Miller and Gordon said they wanted current Mr. TSU, James Alderman to be more visible and vowed to do that if they were elected.

Most memorable about Gordon's interview was his inability to sing or state the *Alma Mater*.

Some feel as if asking this question was too much. We do not fault Gordon for simply not knowing the *Alma Mater*, but not knowing it when he is running for such an esteemed position such as Mr. TSU was unacceptable.

Students, how would you feel if President Obama did not know the *Star*

*Spangled Banner*?

This question was asked to all candidates and was neither unfair nor misleading.

On a lighter note, Gordon did say he wanted to work closely with students in Watson Hall.

*The Meter* endorsed Dezirae M. Spain as being our next Miss TSU. Her natural presence is that of a queen and we feel as though she will do well in the position as well as in national competitions if selected by the student body.

Although Spain was our ultimate pick, the other two candidates should not be taken lightly. Keosha J. Cole and Melanie D. Hughes also possess the necessary qualities of holding the position of Miss TSU.

Cole was a down-to-earth, easy-going young lady who was not afraid to laugh in her interview and show us that she is human. Her only downfall in the interview was her articulation.

But Cole possessed a radiant passion for TSU that is touching and infectious. Her slogan, "I Love You," is befitting of the type of reign she would have as Miss TSU.

Hughes' impressive platform "Our LEGACY" was well received by the staff, but at times she fell short of answering the proposed questions and seemed a bit inexperienced.

In fact, if Cole and Spain were combined into one person, she would be the perfect candidate for Miss TSU. The resulting lady would exude excellence, look and speak like a queen, but also be humble enough to sit down and eat fried chicken with the common folk.

We encourage the student body to use these endorsements as one of several components on selecting which candidates to vote for.

We hope that the debates, forums and varied events scheduled during SEC week along with this article helped to form an educated opinion on which candidate they feel will best represent the university and themselves.\*



# SGA, consider your legacy



What happens after all the free hotdogs and donuts are passed out? What do elected students really have to offer the student body?

From the outside looking in I've always wondered what it would be like to be a member of the Student Government Association. I wonder if the candidates really know what they are up against and how much students depend on them.

I believe every SGA administration should leave their mark, each student should know the impact that SGA is making on campus. What is the point of electing students if they do not hear our grievances and help to make changes?

Being a member of SGA means more than just dressing up in a suite during football games. Our elected students have the power to voice student

concerns to administration.

Also, I am not sure if they realize how much respect the student body has for students that are members of SGA.

This should be even more of an incentive for SGA members to actively work for the students that put them in office. A lot of energy is used to get into office however; it seems to taper off once students are elected.

Members of SGA may argue this observation by saying they work hard through the year. However, there is always room for improvement.

Although many people may disagree, the 2008-2009 administration did make a good effort to improve the livelihood of the student body.

There were several seminars this year that focused on the value professionalism. Seminars like those are very helpful, especially to first year students.

The royal court was placed in a positive light when Mr. TSU, James Alderman won the national title of Mr. HBCU.

Also, it seems as though campus queens are staying connected and

working for the community thanks to R.E.I.G.N. Supreme, which was an organization founded by the 2007-2008 Miss TSU Orna Jones.

I hope the future administration took notes during critical moments during this school year. There were several active moments that spoke volumes about the importance of unity among SGA and the student body.

When Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States of America our SGA President Patrick Walker Reese, Mr. TSU James Alderman and SGA Speaker of the House Danny Glover marched to Fisk University with nearly 2,000 students in celebration.

Also, SGA officials took a stand when the Tennessee Board of Regents announced a tuition increase that maybe detrimental to a lot of student.

Once SGA heard of the potential increases they did not haste to protest at the capital building with students.

I believe moment like these are priceless, and hopefully future Tigers will make efforts to be a active part of the student body.

Interested in  
writing for the  
**FORUM**  
section?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**CONTACT  
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SETH E. DAVIS**

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Sdavis@  
tsumeter.com



I have one question for the students out there: Is chivalry really dead? I have heard this question asked at many forums and seminars since I have been enrolled at TSU but I have never heard a unified yes, except from the occasional Lothario.

More often I hear it is alive, just not in the same form. According to the Oxford dictionary, chivalry in a historic context refers to 'men-at-arms,' or mounted and fully armed fighting-men, of the Middle Ages.

However, in modern times and in this situation, it is a social honor code

## Is chivalry too much to ask for?

in which one treats others, particularly men's treatment of ladies.

The reason I ask this is because last week I encountered a situation that made me question it.

I was sitting outside waiting for a fish fry that was put on by a male organization to start, when one of its members pulled up in their car with the last necessary items. When the member got of his car and walked away, three of the organization's members and two girls flocked to the car to retrieve its contents.

Honestly, the items that the three members had were very heavy but I was extremely disheartened to see one lady carrying two liters of cole slaw and a bag of buns and the other one carting a 24 pack of canned soda.

Now my issue with this is that there were at least ten members of this male organization sitting around as these two young ladies were sweating for the organization.

When I confronted one of them and tried to take the heavy load from them, they told me they wanted to help and would not let me take the load.

I do not blame these ladies for trying to help these men but I blame not only the organization but also every man in attendance that witnessed this travesty and did not try to stop it.

Men, have we lost our way on campus? When we put on events for the campus, the women should not have to do anything. Even if the ladies help, they should not have to or feel compelled to do the grunt of the work that the men

should be doing.

Too many women on this campus have not been catered to like they should be. Women should not have to touch the door handle because there should be a young man there to hold the door for her.

I have also learned through my experience at B.L.A.C.K. Inc.'s Women's Appreciation that many women are not used to having a gentleman pull out a chair and seat them, which is unacceptable.

Ladies you should not accept any type of treatment. When you demand to be treated like a lady, men will think of you as a lady.

Kudos go to the men and organizations on campus who treat women with respect and chivalry.



# Justin CRAWFORD

★ SGA President ★

Classification: Junior  
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.  
Major: Criminal Justice  
Platform: Jusrizon – It's In the Network



METER  
PICK



# Jennifer WILLIAMS

★ SGA President ★

Classification: Junior  
Hometown: Memphis  
Major: Psychology  
Platform: Saving TSU by promoting excellence and retention

Justifications: Williams has a proven track record in SGA and has worked with administration in the past. Williams is detail-oriented and admits that she does not want her membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. to define her role in SGA.

If she is not elected, Williams says she will look for an open position because she has a passion for service. Although this was evident in the interview, she may lack the approachability that is needed to represent a student ambassador.

# Danny GLOVER

★ SGA Vice President ★

Classification: Junior  
Hometown: Atlanta  
Major: Political Science  
Platform: You're in Good Hands

Justifications: Glover has proven dedication to servicing TSU students through several events and programs in his three years here. He has also proven his leadership ability by serving as president of Collegiate 100 and Speaker of the House. Although Glover is running unopposed, it does not hinder the enthusiasm of his campaign.

Glover is well qualified for the position, but his previous ambitions may lead him to overstep his role as second in command. If his charisma during campaign week match the work he wants to do during his reign, great things will come from him



METER  
PICK



# Keosha COLE

★ Miss TSU ★

Classification: Junior  
Hometown: Houston  
Major: Business Administration  
Platform: I LOVE You!



# Melanie HUGHES

★ Miss TSU ★

Classification: Junior  
Hometown: Nashville, Tenn.  
Major: Biology  
Platform: Hughes in the News



# Dezirae SPAIN

★ Miss TSU ★

Classification: Junior  
Hometown: Memphis  
Major:

Platform: One Team • One Goal • One Representation

Justifications: Spain simply has the presence of a Miss TSU and possesses the necessary qualities to win Miss NBCA. She is very articulate and polished in appearance and has family ties to the crown. Spain plans to get back in the family mode of that old TSU spirit. If elected, Spain also wants to hold everyone accountable from their actions from students to top administration. Although Spain has the look of the universities' queen, she did not disclose practical methods in implementing her platform. She was also inexcusably late for her initial interview, which forced her to reschedule.



METER  
PICK



# James H. BLAND III

★ Mr. TSU ★

Classification: Junior

Hometown: Versailles, KY

Major: Biology

Platform: Uniting and transforming Tennessee State University as we embrace our heritage, honor the past, engage the present, and touch the future.

Justifications: Bland is a new comer to SGA ready to take the campus by storm. With the hopes of promoting programs not only on campus but also in the community, he seems to be ready to take on the prestigious position. Bland describes himself as versatile, flexible and social and represents the common TSU student. He admits that although he has not been in SGA in previous years and lacks experience in the field, the work he has put forth in other organizations has prepared him to lead the campus and be the face for the university.



METER  
PICK

# Geffery K. GORDON

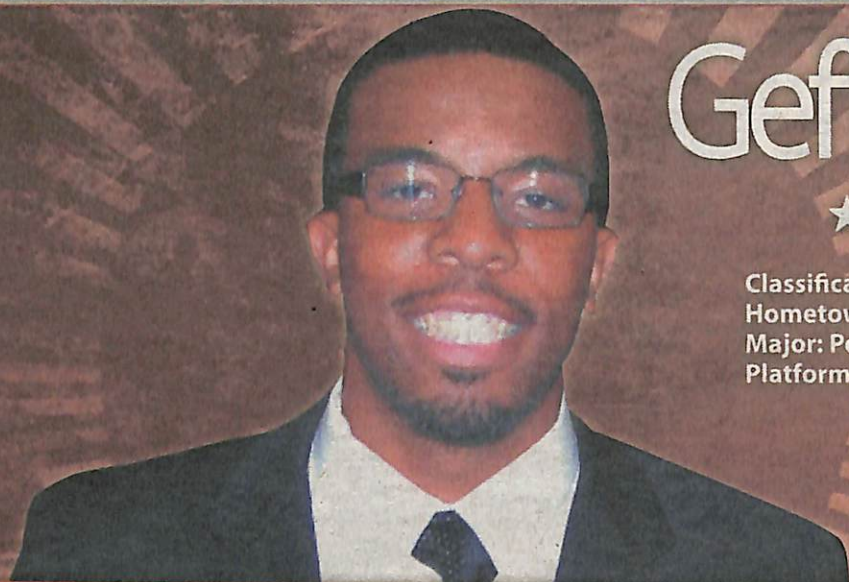
★ Mr. TSU ★

Classification: Junior

Hometown: Milwaukee, Wisc.

Major: Political Science

Platform: The Year of the Gentleman



# Jonathan MILLER

★ Mr. TSU ★

Classification: Senior

Hometown: Jackson, Tenn.

Major: Electrical Engineering

Platform: Taking TSU to New Heights





# Candidates come up with clever campaigns

Continued from page 3

for their respective positions.

Highlights from the convention include Jennifer Williams' superwoman campaign for SGA president, Melvin "The Mel-Man" Williams' bid for senior class president and Samantha Shell's "Fuel for the Future" themed run for junior class queen.

This year, none of the positions were vacant except for graduate representative.

Many, however, had candidates running unopposed, such as SGA vice-president and senior class queen.

"I would say it's an improvement from last year," said Maurice Brittmon, SEC co-chair and a senior sociology major from Memphis. "Maybe people told other people to go ahead and do it,

and not wait until special elections, but it's much better than last year."

After the rally ended Sunday, campaign teams broke out across campus to begin posting literature for their candidates.

Residence hall lobbies, outdoor light posts and every imaginable flat surface were instantly plastered with posters, fliers and other creative media.

Some of these surfaces, including the fences along the football field and across from the campus apartments, were claimed only because of dedicated team members.

"(One of the guys on my campaign) sat along the fence by the football field for five hours," said Melanie Hughes, a candidate for Miss TSU and a junior biology major with a minor in chemistry

from Nashville. "My cousin eventually traded places with him."

Monday, SEC sponsored its annual SGA debate and class officer forum in the Forum.

Students in attendance said the opportunity to listen to the candidates helped them make some of the decisions.

SEC was hoping for that and more, according chairwoman Denise Kirk.

"The purpose of the SGA debate is to find out characteristics the candidates possess that will better tell the student body how they will lead in their desired positions, and to inform the student body of the candidates running for the open positions," said Kirk, a senior biology major from Memphis.

Tuesday, students were treated to

the SGA Rally in Kean Hall; during the rally, students could network with the candidates.

Many, however, came to enjoy the many free refreshments available, including spaghetti, cupcakes, pudding cups, as well as plenty of cake and ice cream.

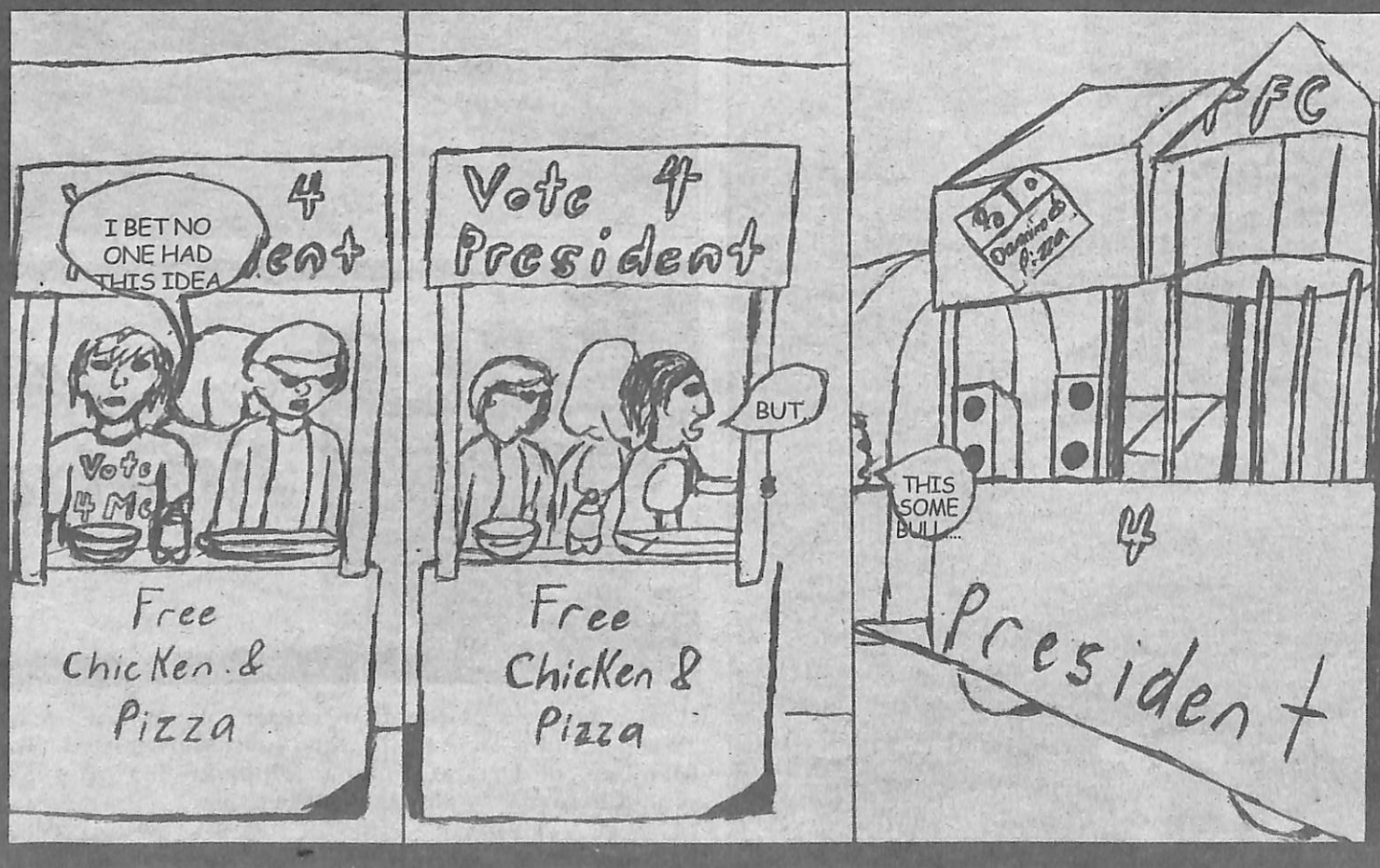
"The only reason I came today was for the snacks," said Courtez Kirkwood, while attending the rally. "I already know who I'm voting for."

Wednesday brought what many students viewed as most important event during SEC Week — the Mr. and Miss TSU pageant.

This year, a combined pageant featuring a preliminary round held months ago replaced the old format of separate pageants for each position.

## TIGERVILLE

By Orterrius Burnett



Visit online at  
tsunmeter.com



# CAMPAIGNS BEGIN

photos by Marshall A. Latimore



(Left) Members of Jonathan Miller's campaign for Mr. TSU post signs on the gate along John Merritt Blvd. (Top) Members of Dezirae Spain's campaign for Miss TSU scramble to put up signage on the gate. (Above) A campaign staffer for Justin Crawford posts a banner advertising Crawford's campaign slogan, "It's the Network."



# CANDIDATES DEBATE

photos by Marshall A. Latimore



(Top) Aaron McGee, a candidate for Representative at-large, addresses the audience during the SGA forum. (Far left) Justin Crawford, candidate for SGA president, addresses a listening audience during the debate. (Left) Jennifer C. Williams, the other candidate for SGA President, addresses the audience.



# Students have opposite views on 'coming out'

Continued from page 3

built on Christian principles, so the act of homosexuality is double-sided when you're a part of a Christian fraternity."

Alderman said he does not feel as though homosexual students should hide their feelings and admits that those on the "down low" may have a harder time dealing with such issues.

"I don't think it's necessary to hide your sexuality," Alderman said. "However, I think it's very unfortunate if a man does choose that route and it is more disgraceful to be down low."

Coach Rod Reed, defensive coordinator of the football team, said he finds homosexuality a subject best not talked about around the football atmosphere. In fact, Reed said he prefers gay or bisexual players to keep their sexuality a secret.

"I think (keeping sexuality a secret) is the best option for anyone (on the team),"

Reed said. "For society being the way it is, saying 'I'm gay and playing football' would not fly in the locker room."

For Ariane Banks, a junior mass communications major from Flint, Mich., her being out as a lesbian on campus was not as much a problem for her.

"I don't face issues on campus with my sexuality," Banks said. "Society accepts two women (being together) more than they accept two men. It's a double standard."

Although this may be true, Banks also said not everyone completely understands her sexuality.

"It's hard to do things on campus because I'm masculine and I have a haircut," she said. "Even in the bathroom, girls will look at me crazy because they feel uncomfortable."

"When I was a freshmen, girls would call the head of the dorm saying there's a man in the shower," she continued.

Brian Coleman, a junior biology

major from Atlanta, said he believes that if men and women would act their appropriate gender roles, situations like ridicule or violence could be avoided.

"I don't hate gay people, but why would you purposely put controversy in your life when you could avoid the whole situation?" Coleman asked. "Some of the stuff gay people do, like (gay men) coming to class with weave and snow boots or acting 'funny' when you're a man, starts a reaction."

Research from the American Psychological Association has found that the people who have the most positive attitudes toward gay men, lesbians and bisexuals are those who say they know one or more LGBT person well, often as a friend or co-worker.

For this reason, the APA said it believes that negative attitudes toward gay people as a group are prejudices that are not grounded in actual experience but are based on stereotypes and

misinformation.

Banks recognized male friends she knows who have been beaten or mistreated for being feminine.

However, she said she felt people hide their sexuality because of possible rejection from loved ones, rather than the fear of being persecuted.

"I think the reason people hide their sexuality is because they're afraid how people will react to it," Banks explained. "Some people's parents and best friends don't even know because they're scared."

Mary Shelton, a psychology professor at TSU, said she feels not "coming out" to friends and family causes emotional indifference amongst homosexuals who prefer hiding from peers.

"It makes sense to come out under people you trust and you should be around people you trust," Shelton said. "Not coming out, however, can be an emotional cost. It forces you to be someone that you're not."

## Comm. students utilizes campus technology, studio

By Tiffany Downing  
Contributing Reporter

TSU's Communications department boasts a high-tech television studio and one student decided to use it to her full benefit.

Kola Ellis, a senior mass communications major from Nashville, takes full advantage of the studio's existence by producing the first talk show broadcast by a student in the city, *360 Degrees with Kola E*.

"I wanted to be effective and produce positive change, and my approach to educate and entertain is effective," Ellis said. "A changed, empowered mind results in a changed, empowered life."

*360 Degrees with Kola E* is a talk show that emphasizes youth empowerment. Ellis said the show is

"entertaining and informative with a fashionable, energetic upbeat vibe."

The show contains several different elements, including Ellis as host, a live audience, a hype person, on-air opening and closing talents, and a red carpet segment that introduces the show's topic with thoughts from the audience.

"One thing I learned by making the show happen is that it's not the quantity of people you have behind you, but the quality of people," Ellis said.

Pre-production and post-production crews were the most elaborate piece of Ellis' show. She had to gather people to make her dream a reality, often needing them to work long hours. It took six hours to shoot two shows in one day.

"It wasn't hard finding a production crew, the challenge was getting committed people," Ellis said.

The first step Ellis took to putting

her show together was documenting every single aspect of the show on paper. Her next step was consulting with administrators and getting the approvals to go in production.

Ellis gained support not just by her TSU peers and teachers but from the Nashville community.

Various community centers showed their support by attending the show as audience members and local restaurant On the Grill provided food for the crew during the long production days.

"The execution of the total production was very good," said Donald Page, a professor in the communications department. "What I liked best about the show was the interesting topics; they had plenty of substance."

The show's topics ran the gamut from unprotected sex to gaining financial success, and during the interview

segments many guests shared their stories, including rap artist Murphy Lee, American Idol contestant Corey Clark, plus size model Mi'ka Drake and millionaire Uchendi Nwani.

Audience members said what made the show so captivating was that the guests did not just share their successes, but also the obstacles they faced along the way.

"It was a great experience and I am glad I could be apart of her great and successful idea," said Kaylah Robinson, a junior mass communication major from Seattle, Wash. "Being the red carpet correspondent allowed me to understand the work of a reporter on and off air."

Twelve episodes of *360 Degrees with Kola E* were shot over the past two semesters, and they are scheduled to be air beginning this summer on Channel 10, and TSU campus channel 98.





Local author  
bares her soul.  
Pg. 18

# THE METER ARTS CULTURE

Monday, April 13, 2009

Volume 59 Issue 19

## Love story unfolds in modern comedy

*Confessions of a Shopaholic*  
Grade: B

Prada, Versace, Valentino and Dior were not the only apples in the eye of Australian born actress Isla Fisher in her new romantic comedy, *Confessions of a Shopaholic*.

Fisher takes on her first leading role as a New York Journalist, struggling with her obsession for shopping, while shaking off her hounding debt collectors, scrambling for her dream job, and finding true love.

The movie kicks off with a quirky glance at the dire state of Rebecca Bloomwood's (Fisher) affairs.

She is heading to an interview at the fashion-oriented *Alette* magazine and she feels as if she needs this magnificent green scarf that happens to be on sale.

After trying to pay for it with each of her credit cards, which have or almost reached their limit, she finds herself twenty dollars short.

Rebecca runs to the street and finds a man who gives her twenty dollars, stating she needs the cash for her grandmother.

She buys the scarf and heads to *Alette*, only to find the position has been filled. After hearing a tip that *Successful Savings*, a partner magazine, is

hiring, and that it's a way in for Alette, Rebecca heads to the interview.

As she walks into *Successful Savings*, she realizes the editor is the man on the street who gave her the money for the scarf.

Caught in her lie, Rebecca is cast out in shame, and to ease the pain, she shops.

After Rebecca realizes she's thousands of dollars in debt, she writes a letter to each magazine.

One holds a story for Alette, while the other contains contempt for its counterpart. Of course, in typical comedic fashion, the mailing slipped up.

*Successful Savings* editor, Luke Brandon, played by Hugh Dancy, gets the story as Rebecca stops the other letter from reaching Alette. She is offered a job from Brandon, which she procrastinates on to indulge in a massive sample sale.

After buying a disappointing Cashmere coat, Rebecca writes a fantastic article comparing the incident to applying for credit. She writes the story as the mysterious *Girl in the Green Scarf*. The story is a hit.

From that point, the story moves along. She endures her instant success, while cutely and cleverly dodging the debt collector Derek Smeath, which includes a ruse telling Brandon he is a psychotic ex-boyfriend.

Suze, whose wedding is

approaching, forces Rebecca to attend a shopaholic therapy group, which did not go over well.

The movie continues at a quickening pace. Brandon and Rebecca fall for each other while at a ball. Her shopping gets her into trouble with Suze, and Derek Smeath embarrasses her on television.

Later, she and Brandon fall apart. Yet she is still offered a dream job at Alette, which she refuses.

The movie wraps up in an almost expected way. Rebecca sells her things, with the help of her charming mom and dad (Joan Cusack and John Goodman), her now best friend again Suze, and her fellow therapy session members.

She even sells the infamous Green scarf, which was actually bought by a bidder acting on behalf of Brandon.

With her debt gone, she goes into two ventures with Brandon, a relationship and his new magazine, where she writes a column called "Confessions of a Shopaholic."

Fisher is comedic gold. She breezes through the cutesy one-liners, the witty dialogue, and even pulls off the cheesy slapstick in the film. She has emerged from being a sideshow to a front runner.

While the structure is not entirely original, the film still is very stylish. *Confessions of*



a Shopaholic delivers in more ways than one.

While it may not offer something for all audiences, it still has a spark that will make viewers stay interested.

The plot at times gets a little confusing, with several stories all branching from Rebecca's addiction, which she explains as, "When I shop, the world just

gets a little bit better, as long as I can swipe that card, hear it be approved, everything is a little less dim."

The film has style, humor, and talent. *Confessions of a Shopaholic* may not top the must see list, but it's a film that provides the quick little escape viewers are looking for.

Winston S. Mize



# Run-DMC inducted into Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

The rap group featuring Run DMC and Reverend Run from Queens, N.Y., was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on April 4.

The trio became the second hip hop group ever to receive this honor.

The event took place in Detroit and group was inducted by Detroit native and rapper Eminem, who took the moment to go down memory lane and explain how Run-DMC inspired him as a rapper.

## Soap Fans Lose 'Light'

CBS has announced that they plan to pull the long running soap opera *Guiding Light* from its daytime line-up.

The date for the finale has been locked in for Sept. 18.

While there are rumors circulating that that the show may be picked up, they may be false.

Fans will just have to look forward to watching their long time favorites finally getting whatever he or she may deserve.

## Shakespeare remake gets

## primetime adaptation

The Popular 1999 film *10 Things I Hate About You*, will hit the small screen with a series adaptation by the film's director Gil Junger.

The series will be a half hour, and follow the characters from the film. The film has been accredited to being the late Heath Ledger's breakout role.

It will star Lindsay Shaw, from the series *Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide*, as well as Meghan Jette Martin, from *Camp Rock* and comedian Larry Miller. It is set to air July 7 at 8 p.m. on ABC family.

## 'HBIC' returns to VH1

VH1 personality, Tiffany "New York" Pollard, is set to return with a new show, titled *New York goes to Work*.

Tune in to see the dramalicious diva perform various work tasks for the cameras.

It should have plenty of Pollard's

typical blunders, that will leave viewers exhaustedly saying "what's next?"

## Brown pleads 'Not Guilty' to felony charges

Chris Brown, after failing to make a plea deal on April 6, pled 'Not Guilty' in court on April 7 to two felony counts:

with force likely to produce great bodily injury and making criminal threats.

The case, which is a result of the Grammy night incident between Brown and girlfriend/pop star Robyn "Rihanna" Fenty, was originally scheduled for March, but was pushed back by Brown's lawyer.

Brown must attend another hearing on April 29th, where he could be facing jail time if convicted.

Fenty is participating to whatever extent the law requires for her, seeing as she and Brown have reportedly reconciled.

As far as appearing in court goes,

Fenty's rep says "she will be pleased if this was over quickly, and that she does not want to go to court and would do everything possible not to."

## Daytime Emmy's find new home

When looking for the Daytime Emmy's Aug. 30, look no further than the CW broadcasting network.

This will be the first time in 36 years that the vent will appear on a network outside of ABC, NBC or CBS.

## A new face of terror.

*Watchmen* star Jackie Earle Haley, has been cast a Freddy Krueger in the new *Nightmare on Elm Street*.

The film is to be a reboot of the original *Nightmare* franchise and is the ninth film in the series.

Aside from *Watchmen*, Haley starred in 2006's *Little Children*, where he received an Oscar nomination for portraying a sex offender.

Compiled by Winston Mize•

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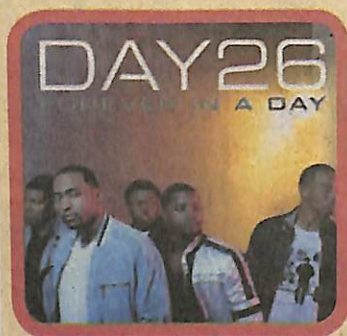
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# SOUNDS of the SUMMER

*The albums you'll be playing all summer long*

As the spring semester begins to start winding down, it is time to take a look forward at eight potential must have albums for the summer.

From rap to rock these albums will provide for a most interesting summer soundtrack:

## DAY26 - *Forever In a Day*

Will, Mike, Brian, Rob and Que are back and in full effect for the spring with their sophomore studio effort with club bangers such as *Imma Put It On Her* featuring their mentor Diddy and label mate Yung Joc.

After making the band and landing the number one spot on charts with their debut album, *Forever In a Day* includes production from heavy hitters Jermaine Dupri, T-Pain and Bryan Michael Cox and is sure to solidify the boys' longevity this season.

## Ciara - *Fantasy Ride*

The Princess of Crunk and R&B returns with her third studio album *Fantasy Ride* in early May.

The album features the artists look on her alter ego Super C, and features the smash hit *Love, Sex and Magic*, her chart

topping duet with Justin Timberlake.

Expect appearances from Missy Elliot, Ludacris, Young Jeezy and Chris Brown.

## Green Day - *21st Century Breakdown*

Following Ciara's 'fantasy' act, Green Day resurfaces with their eighth studio album in May as well.

The album, *21st Century Breakdown*, comes five years after the critically acclaimed album *American Idiot*.

The album centers around a young couple Gloria and Christian, and is divided into three acts.

It will have the same rock opera appeal as *American Idiot*. The first single *Know Your Enemy* is set to be released April 16.

## Eminem - *Relapse*

Rapper Eminem ends his musical hiatus in mid-May with his long-anticipated sixth studio album, *Relapse*.

After taking a break to focus on his career as a producer at Shady Records, Eminem hits listeners with the stuff that made him famous.

The single *We Made You*, shows that Eminem is ready to fill his shoes as one of the best white rappers out there.

The album is to feature appearances

by Dr.Dre and 50-Cent.

## JoJo - *All I Want Is Everything*

The talented pop and R&B singer JoJo kicks off June with her third studio album, *All I Want Is Everything*.

JoJo is now an 18-year-old young woman, who will grace listeners with her soulful voice and tell stories similar to those off her second album *The High Road* but with a more adult twist.

The record's producers Danja, Darkchild and Toby Gad are sure to provide some bumping sounds for the album.

## Black Eyed Peas - *The Energy Never Dies*

June marks the return of the R&B funk group Black Eyed Peas with their fifth studio album, *The Energy Never Dies* or The E.N.D. for short.

Though Will.i.Am describes this as an ongoing project that can be added to over time, since the concept of an album is no more, it's due out this June, and the first single, *Boom Boom Pow* is burning up the charts.

## Lil Wayne - *Rebirth*

Rapper Lil Wayne mixes it up with his seventh studio, *Rebirth* in June. This

album will be Wezzy's long-awaited rock debut.

The album will also provide a few rap tracks, to cater to several audiences.

Though the first single *Prom Queen* was poorly received, the next single *Hot Revolver* is decent rock-rap anthem that leaves the listener awaiting to see what else is in store with Wayne's *Rebirth*.

## LaToya Luckett - *Lady Love*

Closing out the list is former Destiny's Child member LaToya Luckett with her second studio album, *Lady Love*.

After her self titled debut album *LaToya*, she returns to airwaves with more songs fueled like her chart topping success *Torn*.

The first single *Not Anymore* is a promising look at what is to come from LaToya as a solo artist.

While these are not the only albums being released this summer, these eight are some of the more highly anticipated ones.

Hopefully, these albums will live up to their hypes and help make the summer of 09' and bumping one.

Compiled by Winston Mize  
and Jaida McKie



# 'WATCHMEN' is a hit for the fans

*Watchmen*—B+

From the imagination of two prolific and talented writers comes the story of the Watchmen and now the release of the film of the same name.

The film does its best to recreate and recapture the intricate story and dark moody tones set by the original work and succeeds on most, if not all levels.

The story takes place in the 1980s during the height of the Cold War but adds an interesting twist to the real-world timeline. Richard Nixon is still president and the world is full of costumed heroes that used to be in the service of the United States.

As outlandish as that sounds, the story works surprisingly well due to layered storytelling and solid character development.

Watchmen opens with a series of flashbacks from the 1940s and 1950s when the viewers are allowed to see the costumed heroes at the height of their popularity.

They are viewed by the US government as valuable tools in the winning of the Vietnam War and as homeland heroes.

With the aid of Dr. Manhattan, the only super-powered hero among them and The Comedian, a weapons expert, they succeed in ending the war in a mere two weeks.

As a result of the heroes's quick decisive victory, Nixon is heralded as an American Champion and kept as the President of the United States indefinitely.

For the next few decades the heroes eventually age and retire from the lives of being masked adventurers, as others rise up and take their places. It is then that the first of many disasters strike.

After several heroes go missing and others end up dead, the disaster comes in the form of the very

government that once found them so vital deciding to outlaw costumed heroes and labels them as vigilantes.

One by one and in different ways most of the heroes comply and fade from the public eye.

The system that outlawed the heroes appears to have worked until one of the former heroes is killed in his very own apartment.

The story then introduces the viewer to a group of people that once served as heroes for a world that needed them.

The aforementioned heroes are: the sexy brawler, Silk Spectre; the masked and brutal detective, Rorschach; the gadget wielding crime fighter, Nite Owl; the super-smart warrior, Ozymandias; the heartless anti-hero, the Comedian and the superhuman scientist, Dr. Manhattan.

Though all of the heroes have strengths in many different areas, the law inevitably forced them all into different ways of life.

While Rorschach refuses to give up crime fighting and becomes an

underground worker, Dr. Manhattan and his lover Silk Spectre begin working for the government as scientists.

Ozymandias reveals his secret identity to the world and becomes a billionaire and Nite Owl renounces his life as a hero and lives as an average Joe.

They are all content with their lives until one of them is killed.

The film that follows takes the characters and viewers on a visually stimulating ride all over the world and beyond as they try to stop the impending Doomsday that will come from nuclear war.

It is amazing that this film was ever made considering it was originally deemed inadaptable due to its immensely convoluted plot and extensive character development.

For fans of the original work this is great. For non-fans this could be a burden. The film is a little more than two hours and 40 minutes long.

While the film's cinematography is awesome and the story is unlike

anything ever shown on the silver screen, one must wonder if there is any reason for an unaffiliated viewer to sit through this film.

There is a yes to that question but this film also requires that attention is paid throughout and that is where they may lose the viewer.

Though the film is filled with solid performances, especially from Jackie Earl Haley as Rorschach and Billy Crudup as Dr. Manhattan, they might not be noticed due to everything that is going on.

Surprisingly, the film is true to the source material but deviates for sheer believability and cinematic flare.

There are even a few shots that are taken directly from the graphic novel.

Overall, the film gives a great story but actually takes the time and effort to tell almost every piece of the story. That strength is also a limitation.

**Bottom Line:** *Watchmen* is worth a look, even if it is designed almost totally for the fanboys.

**Gregory Brand, Jr.**





# DREAM SATISFIES WITH SOPHOMORE RELEASE

## The-Dream

*Love vs. Money*

Grade: B+

Singer/songwriter Terius "The-Dream" Nash takes listeners on another journey with his new album *Love vs. Money*, which is the follow-up to his 2007 debut album, *Love/Hate*.

His first single, *Rockin' That Thang* is a definite club banger and radio favorite.

Nash is known for reproducing chart toppers including Rihanna's single *Umbrella* in 2007, and Beyoncé's number one single *Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)* in 2008.

The-Dream and longtime production partner Christopher "Tricky" Stewart joined forces to create another batch of hits for his highly-anticipated sophomore effort.

The album falls right in line with the theme and production of his first album, featuring all-star collaborations and singles that are guaranteed radio favorites.

Nash takes the stage and croons about taking a trip to space offering to circle the stars and bring down clouds for his significant other on the funky track *Walkin' On The Moon* with tight flows and brilliant metaphors from Kanye West.

He doesn't forget to profess his love and affection alongside labelmate Mariah Carey on the lovey dovey *My Love*, touching on the same content as the track *Playin' In Her Hair* from his debut album, *Love/Hate*.

The track *Put It Down* has a beat reminiscent of J. Holiday's 2007 hit, *Bed*, but Nash is still successful in getting his point across, reassuring his girl he'll be on her "like a white tee on a thug."

In the piano-driven ballad *Fancy*, he describes a girl as "the dream of a billion men" who loves the luxurious

lifestyle, taking expensive trips and wearing nothing but the finest designers.

Nash warns his lover to call up her beautician after taking a nightcap in the R. Kelly-like track *Sweat It Out*, promising that her hair can be fixed after their late night rendezvous.

He brags about taking a girl home in *Take U Home 2 My Mama*, but all is put to a halt in *Love vs. Money*, regretting giving his lover more of his money than his love and care.

Nash goes from a melancholy mood to bitter and revengeful in *Love vs. Money Part 2* singing, "When love is the problem, money can't solve it."

Meanwhile, love, deception and heartbreak is mentioned in the heart-wrenching ballad, *Right Side of My Brain* helps keep consistency in the theme of the album.

Nash's versatility and ingenious mind is reminiscent of R. Kelly during 1990s and early 2000s, and coincidentally he pays tribute to one of R. Kelly's most popular albums to-date in the bedroom track, titled *Kelly's 12 Play*.

The made-for-club *Let Me See The Booty* featuring fellow Atlanta native Lil Jon has a catchy beat and lyrics, but is still reminiscent of the 2003-2004 era of crunk music.

Perhaps it is safe to say Nash is his own brand. With unique vocals, extraordinary songwriting ability, and superb production skills, Nash's sophomore effort is sure to be a definite crowd pleaser.

Thanks to his brilliance in writing songs for heavy hitters Mariah Carey and Beyoncé, both divas have claimed top spots on Billboard charts.

He is a force to be reckoned with he will definitely be on the list of entertainers to remember for years to come.

Jaida McKie





# Local writer breaks mold with book debut

***My True Soul, Exploited, Apprehended and Broken Within***  
By Shawna M. Harrison  
Grade: B-



Everyday children all over the country and world are abused. Whether the abuse is physical, mental or sexual, it is something children should never have to endure.

The disturbing truth is that all of the aforementioned forms of abuse do occur and do so at an alarming rate.

This tends to be especially true for some people of color where connections with immediate and extended family members are more intricate and the signs of abuse may be more difficult to detect.

To combat this hidden issue on a personal level, Shawna M. Harrison, a Nashville resident and barber in the TSU community, has released a telling memoir where she outlines her own personal struggles with abuse at the hands of her own family.

Filled with riveting personal accounts dealing with abuse of all kinds, *My True Soul Exploited, Apprehended and Broken Within*, dares to address issues that are either marginalized or ignored by the general public.

The fact that Harrison has the courage to even speak on such things as her own molestations abuse and experiencing lesbianism, makes her dynamic and brave beyond the vein of



COURTESY OF SHAWNAHARRISON.COM

**Shawna M. Harrison, a Nashville resident and local barber, introduces her debut book, a memoir titled *My True Soul, Exploited, Apprehended, & Broken Within*.**

the typical new author.

This memoir is Harrison's first book and it is here that she makes a gamble on potential readers by trusting them with what can translate as a deeply personal set of events.

From beginning to end, Harrison engages readers with tales of her life from childhood into adulthood where the lines between family and stranger are blurred and innocence is lost behind closed doors.

From the first account of Harrison suffering sexual abuse at the hands of her older brother and uncle to the abandonment she experienced at the

hands of her father, this book certainly begins with a bang.

The explosion continues as Harrison outlines her battle with violation and mistrust of men altogether and her resulting affinity for same-sex relationships and self abuse.

Harrison's debut is unapologetically honest and frankly delves deep into the heart of the writer.

She goes, as E. M. Forster says, "Where angels fear to tread," and in doing so, she makes her work so much more than the typical independent literary work.

The topics addressed in this work

are often ignored because they are too painful to speak on, but because they are addressed here much is achieved.

Through her work she is giving a voice to the voiceless and empowering the people that have been the once marginalized and ignored.

For the most part, she wins but the work is far from perfect.

The concealing of some names and the omitting of some details cheapens the experience.

It is hard to fully believe a writer that blatantly tells us info is being withheld. If it is classified, leave it out all together.

The book's main weaknesses show themselves in the sheer structure and handling of the book.

The set up is fragmented and the story glides through different parts of the writer's life seemingly without an easy-to-understand flow.

While the writer's words are deeply heartfelt and honest, the formatting may confuse some readers.

Overall, *My True Soul, Exploited, Apprehended and Broken Within*, is an interesting and engaging memoir that is definitely worth a look.

**Bottom Line:** While Harrison is new to the book game, her debut is cleverly worded and covered in gut-wrenching emotion. Check her out online.

**Gregory Brand, Jr. •**

Visit Harrison's Web  
site online at  
[shawnaharrison.com](http://shawnaharrison.com)

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# THE METER SPORTS

Monday, April 13, 2009

Volume 59 Issue 19

## University hires new basketball head coach

By Adey Adeola  
Contributing Reporter

The arrival of the new TSU Men's head basketball coach John Cooper projects a new outlook on the future of the program.

Supporters of Cooper say he "exemplifies and displays intelligence, persistence, and dedication." For them, these qualities are what the basketball program has been missing lately.

Cooper, a former Wichita State University player and Rhodes Scholar, had been an assistant basketball coach for fifteen years at various universities including, Fayetteville State, South Carolina, and Auburn University—where he spent the past five seasons.

Cooper vowed that the program will go about business differently by improving academics, discipline, team unity, and community involvement.

"We have to be giving ourselves, we have to get out in the community, we need to do community service, and we're gonna change the culture." Said



SAM JORDAN/TSUTIGERS.COM

TSU Athletic Director Theresa Phillips congratulates new head basketball coach John Cooper during the university's press conference announcing the position being filled.

men's head basketball Coach Cooper

"I think it's very exciting and important for having a plan to get involved in the community and also improving the universities' fan base."

said TSU President Melvin N. Johnson in agreement to Cooper's plans.

Cooper believes that the program has the potential to be a winning program with a few changes and upgrades.

For example, he said the team must have structure and organization to get back to the winning ways.

"I've always thought this program was a diamond in the rough," Cooper said.

Wallace Dooley, sports information director, said, "It is very exciting to have man in this program who will represent change and discipline, which is what this team needs."

Cooper said that big changes were under way that will earn the respect of many.

"I'm very excited that he is going to help bring us together, have team unity, and being a family," said sophomore forward Darius Cox.

"I think it's going to be good for our team and he seems pretty cool." Said freshman guard Parker Smith

Cooper said that he plans to have commitment on and off the court that will reach out further than the Gentry Center.

Cooper vowed that his door will always be open to the young men. Basketball will only be a portion of what the team's responsibility is in growing as

See "Cooper" on page 22

## Tiger lady golfers come up with win in Alabama

The Tigers Women's golf team finished first at last weekend's Alabama A&M Golf Classic.

The win marked the first this season for the Tigers as they head into the TSU Big Blue Intercollegiate at the Hermitage Golf Course in Nashville.

Three Tigers finished in the Top 5 and four in the top 10 with the lone Tiger not in the top 10, Mya Billingsley, finishing in 11th place.

Leading the way for the Tigers was senior Danielle Stewart who led all golfers. She shot a 86 on the par 72 course finishing at 14-over par.

That was just enough as she finished

just a single stroke ahead of Brittany Beard from Southern University.

Marie Black and Marissa Edge shot a 91 and 93, respectively to finish in fourth and fifth place.

Genesis Fitzgerald shot a 96 overall to finish in eighth place.

Her efforts in combination of the rest of the team gave the Tigers a collective score of 366.

The score was enough to defeat the host school the Bulldogs by 22 strokes.

This week's test will be the Tigers last before the OVC Championship Tournament April 22-24 in Muscle Shoals, Ala.

### University of Memphis loses head coach to Kentucky Wildcats

The Tigers of the University of Memphis are in search for a new head coach of their Men's basketball program. John Calipari, who led the Tigers for the past nine years, signed a multi-year deal to coach at the University of Kentucky.

For Calipari it marks the third head-coaching job he has held in the collegiate ranks; he also was the coach of the New Jersey Nets from 1996-1999.

In his nine seasons with the Tigers, Calipari amasses 9 consecutive 20-win seasons a D-1A record and in all 253 wins.

In the 2008 NCAA Men's Basketball

Tournament, Calipari's Tigers advanced all the way to the title game before losing to University of Kansas.

This year Calipari's Tigers made it all the way to the Sweet 16 before losing to the University of Missouri.

Many speculated that Memphis would pursue Missouri's head coach, Tim Jamieson, to replace Calipari. However Jamieson, signed a 8-year extension to stay at Missouri.

Calipari will be replacing Billy Gillispie who was fired from Kentucky after just two seasons. Gillispie had amassed a 40-27 record with the wildcats.

Compiled by Patrick Comer



## Cooper has high hopes for team

Continued from page 21

men, he said.

With those few words along it appears that the big picture is the game of life and what they learn during their stay at TSU.

Respect will play a factor in the program going forward. It will personify the direction the program is going in.

"I will not go lightly on academics as long as I'm here at TSU," Cooper said. "I believe that you can do it on the court as well as in the classroom."

The athletic program does not stand alone in the feeling that it made the right decision for the new leader of the team.

"In Coach Cooper, you are gaining a great man," said Auburn head basketball coach Jeff Lebo. "He is an excellent decision for a head coach. He has integrity and just a great choice for the job."

"He is the best and I'm really going to miss him," said Auburn forward Dewayne Reed. "He is a great friend and care about me as a person. He wanted me to get my degree and my teammates also."

Bringing value back to the program will take hard work and change, but Cooper said he's ready for the challenge.

"I am excited and hope he can put fans back in the seats and get this program back to winning ways," said Derek Brookings, a TSU alumnus.

"If the guys respond to his style, they (team) will be fine. Said TSU alumni Thomas Smith

For those who are wondering what the new plans are as far as the team, he has already started recruiting once he accepted the job over a week ago.

Fans can look forward to an up-tempo game from the Tigers this coming up season.

"Part of winning championships and part of being successful in life is it starts off the court," Cooper said in the university's press conference.

"You have to set a culture that culture is about integrity, character, commitment, discipline, structure and organization," Cooper continued. "That is how you develop championship habits."



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## TSU Athletic programs feel the sting of budget cuts

By Adey Adeola  
Contributing Reporter

Academia is not the only portion of TSU that has felt the sting of a reduced budget as a result of the decrease in funding at the University.

When fall enrollment numbers failed to reach the expected number of 12,000 students, the school lost out on additional funding, \$8 million of which had been originally allocated for the athletic department.

The budget cuts have caused job positions to be lost, and changed the way certain athletic departments conduct business, not limited to traveling arrangements for games and recruitment.

"We are deeply affected by that, we are in the business of revenue production and when you go through tough economic times, hey some things got to give," said Teresa Phillips, athletic director at TSU.

As a result, the athletic department was forced to change their budget to make accommodations for their players and staff.

Phillips said the department had to cut approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000 from the softball budget.

The cutbacks included taking vans instead of charter buses to many of their games.

The team also had to cut four games from their schedule this season as well as alter their travel plans for their annual spring break outing.

"When the economy is

tough those (athletics) are some of things that are going to be affected," Phillips said.

Recruitment for various sports has been affected by the cuts because the school has to bring in students from different parts of the country and spend money for their activities while at the school.

The department has to pay for a place for the recruits to stay, the cost of feeding them and tickets to various sporting events.

Another problem athletics has faced is the loss of key sponsors. This has proved to be a challenge for the department.

"We had one of our sponsors to close one of their Nashville operations, so that sponsorship was just gone," Phillips said.

Athletics nearly took a hit with its own workers who help with various game activities by cutting back on the amount of staff that was used for games and events.

The annual Courtside Dining Basketball function had to be cut back this year with the staff workers not being able to feast on the meal, which runs \$25-\$30 a plate.

The marketing tactics used at games in the form of giveaways has been altered with small prizes such as t-shirts, ringtone cards and beverages.

"Yeah it's crazy, because it's like our prizes for the fans and students are just not the same," said Ceci Shell, an athletic worker. "We have to stretch things and that can make it frustrating."

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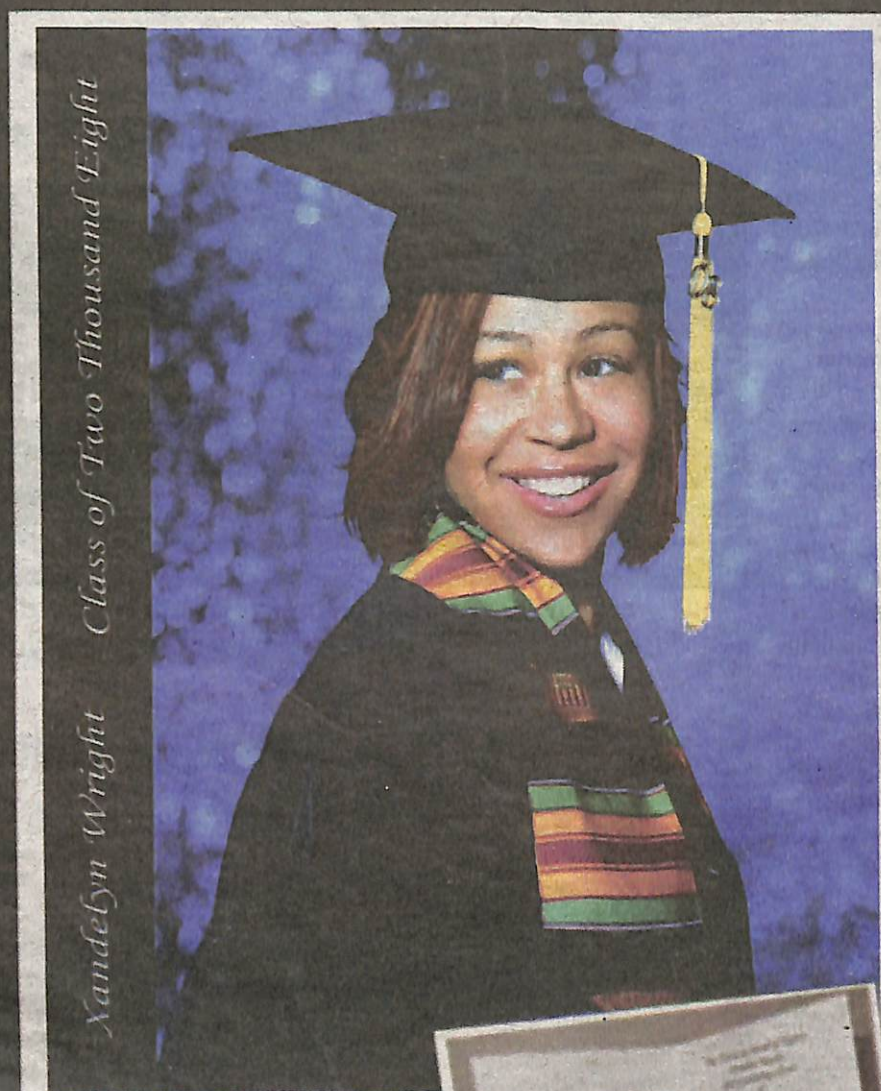
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